Setting up of Food Banks

2042. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to making the country hunger-free, Government propose to set-up Food Bank for the poor people;

(b) whether a target date for making India hunger-free by 15th August, 2007 has been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) A Central Sector Scheme for the setting up of Village Grain Banks in tribal villages was launched in 1996-97. It is a continuing scheme, under which there is no target date for making India hunger-free.

The Village Grain Bank Scheme was launched in selected areas identified by the Central Planning Committee (CPC) as a preventive measure against the death of tribal people due to starvation. The scheme provides that villagers in identified areas can form a committee and set up Grain Banks. This Ministry provides a one-time grant for setting up Grain Banks with an allocation of 100 kg. of locally consumed food grains per family. The members borrow from this bank in time of need and repay after the harvest or on getting income as wages. Under the scheme, funds are released to the State Governments through TRIFED. The CPC has identified 370 blocks in 52 districts in 13 States for implementation of the scheme. However, the list is indicative and the State Governments can select villages/blocks outside these areas, if considered necessary. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs. 1024.37 lakh has so far been released to the States for establishment of 1876 Grain Banks.

Utilization of funds under special Central Assistance

†2043. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States including Chhattisgarh which have been allocated funds for the programmes to be conducted under the Special

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.